

From: Judkins, David B
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2011 12:07 AM
To: DCS Staff
Cc: Judkins, David B
Subject:

DCS Staff,

Through your efforts, DCS continues to demonstrate its commitment to improving the child welfare system for Indiana children and families. Earlier this year, we all made the commitment to rally around the concept of Safely Home – Families First over the next two years. We agreed that this concept amounts to a heightened effort to keep children at home or with relatives when they can't safely remain at home and demonstrates our vision that children desire and deserve to remain with their own families.

This Spring many of you participated in team meetings within your local offices, regions and/or divisions to discuss the concept of Safely Home – Families First and to identify areas of need and barriers to maintaining children in their own homes or with relatives. The information gathered during these meetings was shared with the DCS executive team during a similar team meeting in mid-April and since that time, the Deputy Directors, Regional Managers and their staff have been working to develop action plans to respond to your requests and concerns.

One of the universal requests that came from the team meetings throughout the state was a request for continued communication on our progress and activities or initiatives in place to support our continued focus in this area. To that end, attached is a quarterly report specific to outcomes that reflect on progress in the various practice indicators that have a direct tie to Safely Home – Families First and our efforts to keep kids in the most home-like, least restrictive settings. Please take just a moment to examine this report and consider the progress we have made as a team and what we can do to continue these positive outcomes in the months ahead.

In the future, this report will come out in the month following the end of the quarter (July, October, etc.). It may be revised over time to reflect additional information, but we are committed to making sure that we communicate not only to DCS staff, but to the general public, our providers, the Governor's Office, Judges and Legislators the great work you are doing to transform the child welfare system in Indiana and improve the way we work with children and families involved with DCS.

Once again I thank you for your commitment to the children and families we serve and for your ongoing efforts to improve our system.

Dave Judkins

Deputy Director of Field Operations
Indiana Department of Child Services
302 W. Washington, E306 MS47
Indianapolis, IN. 46204
Office: 317-234-3999
Cell: 317-460-9222
Fax: 317-234-4497

Children thrive in safe, caring, supportive families and communities.